



# UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

## REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022

The meeting of the Union County Board of Elections was called to order by Administrator Nicole DiRado at 10:12am. The following were in attendance: Commissioner Mary Ellen Harris; Commissioner Clara Harelik, Esq.; Commissioner James Foerst, Esq.; Commissioner Dennis Kobitz; Commissioner Tony Teixeira; Commissioner Debra Varnerin (via zoom); Administrator Nicole DiRado; Deputy Administrator Linda Wise; and Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act was read by Administrator DiRado.

Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi administered the Oaths of Office to Commissioners Clara T. Harelik, Esq. and Debra Varnerin.

Ms. Rajoppi left the meeting at 10:20.

Commissioner Varnerin left the meeting at this time.

Administrator DiRado called for a nomination for the Chairman of the Union County Board of Elections. Commissioner Foerst made a motion to nominate Commissioner Harris. Commissioner Harelik seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Varnerin was absent.

Chair Harris called for a nomination for Commissioner of Registration / Secretary for the Union County Board of Elections. Commissioner Kobitz made a motion to nominate Commissioner Harelik. Commissioner Foerst seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Varnerin was absent.

### APPROVAL OF REDISTRICTING MAPS FOLLOWING THE REWARDING PROCESS

The next order of business was the review and approval of maps of the towns which had voters shifted as a result of rewarding. Nicholas Phalen from Remington & Vernick Engineers presented the Board with the options they prepared for each of the affected towns.

Commissioner Kobitz explained this process is required for the Primary, but it is his suggestion that the Board consider redistricting towns throughout the County following the Primary Election. As a result, some of the towns which are being approved today may be redistricted. Commissioner Kobitz explained that redistricting takes into consideration number of voters and turnout in the last two general elections.



# UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Clark:

A motion was made by Commissioner Kobitz to adopt the redistricting scenario presented for Clark. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harelik. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Varnerin was absent.

Elizabeth:

A motion was made by Commissioner Kobitz to adopt Scenario Number 1 presented for Elizabeth. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harelik. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Varnerin was absent.

Linden:

A motion was made by Commissioner Foerst to adopt Scenario Number 1 presented for Linden. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harelik. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Varnerin was absent.

Plainfield:

A motion was made by Commissioner Foerst to adopt Scenario Number 1 presented for Plainfield. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Varnerin was absent.

Rahway:

A motion was made by Commissioner Kobitz to adopt Scenario Number 1 presented for Rahway. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Foerst. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Varnerin was absent.

Roselle:

A motion was made by Commissioner Kobitz to adopt the scenario presented for Roselle. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harelik. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Varnerin was absent.

Roselle Park:

A motion was made by Commissioner Harelik to adopt the scenario presented for Roselle Park. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Foerst. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Varnerin was absent.

Mr. Phalen left the meeting.



# UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. October 12, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes:  
Commissioner Kobitz made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Harelik seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative, with Commissioners Foerst and Teixeira abstaining and Commissioner Varnerin absent.
2. October 12, 2021 – Meeting of the Union County Board of County Canvassers to certify the Rahway Special School Election  
Commissioner Kobitz made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Harelik seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative, with Commissioners Foerst and Teixeira abstaining and Commissioner Varnerin absent.
3. October 19, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes  
Commissioner Kobitz made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Harelik seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Varnerin absent.
4. October 29, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes  
Commissioner Kobitz made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Harelik seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Varnerin absent.
5. November 2, 2021 - Regular Meeting Minutes  
Commissioner Kobitz made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Harelik seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Varnerin absent.
6. November 4, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes  
Commissioner Kobitz made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Harelik seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Teixeira abstaining and Commissioner Varnerin absent.
7. November 7, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes  
Commissioner Kobitz made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Harelik seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Foerst abstaining and Commissioner Varnerin absent.



# UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

8. November 9, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes  
Commissioner Kobitz made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Harelik seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Varnerin absent.
9. November 10, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes  
Commissioner Kobitz made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Harelik seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Varnerin absent.
10. November 15, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes  
Commissioner Kobitz made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Harelik seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Varnerin absent.
11. December 3, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes  
Commissioner Kobitz made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Harelik seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Varnerin absent.
12. December 7, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes  
Commissioner Kobitz made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Harelik seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Varnerin absent.
13. December 10, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes  
Commissioner Kobitz made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Harelik seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative, with Chair Harris and Commissioner Teixeira abstaining and Commissioner Varnerin absent.
14. December 15, 2021 - Regular Meeting Minutes  
Commissioner Kobitz made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Harelik seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Teixeira abstaining and Commissioner Varnerin absent.



# UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

15. January 19, 2022 - Regular Meeting Minutes  
Commissioner Kobitz made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Harelik seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Varnerin absent.
16. January 19, 2022 – Executive Session Meeting Minutes  
Commissioner Kobitz made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Harelik seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Varnerin absent.
17. February 8, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes  
Commissioner Kobitz made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Harelik seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Teixeira abstaining and Commissioner Varnerin absent.

## RESOLUTIONS

- Appointing District Board Workers for the 2022 Elections

A motion was made by Commissioner Harelik to appoint District Board Workers for the 2022 Elections. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Varnerin was absent.

- Approval of the 2022 Polling Locations

Ms. DiRado outlined the changes to polling locations, which include removing polling locations from six schools and decreasing districts in one school. Additionally, this revised polling location proposal consolidates polling locations. The benefit to consolidated polling locations is increased, knowledgeable poll workers available to assist at the locations.

- Berkeley Heights: D5 from the Firehouse to the Municipal Building
- Berkeley Heights: D8 from HS to the Fire House
- Garwood: D1 from Firehouse to Council Chambers
- Garwood: D2 from the sports complex to Council Chambers
- Hillside: W3-D2 from Firehouse to Senior Center
- Linden: W3-D4: New district, Linden PAL Youth Center, 400 Maple Avenue, Gym
- New Providence: D1, 3, 4, & 5: From the Municipal Building to the DeCorso Center
- Rahway:
  - Ward 2 from Franklin School to St. Thomas the Apostle
  - Ward 3 from Roosevelt School to Knights of Columbus



# UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

- Ward 5 from Madison School to American Legion Post #5
- Roselle:
  - Ward 1 from Borough Hall, Harrison School & Oak Park to Warinanco
  - Ward 2 Districts 3 & 4 from Polk School to Harrison Ave School
  - Ward 3 Districts 1 & 4 from Harrison School and Firehouse to Abraham Clark School
  - Ward 4 District 1 – from Borough Hall to Washington Ave School
  - Ward 5 from Moore School, Washington Ave School & Wilday School to Amalfe Center
- Union Districts 4 & 35 to the Municipal Building
- Union Districts 25 & 36 to the New Senior Center

A motion was made by Commissioner Harelik to approve the polling locations for the 2022 Elections. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Foerst. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Varnerin was absent.

- Approval of Early Voting Sites for 2022 (Primary Election: June 3 through June 5 and General Election: October 29 – November 6)
  - Cranford: Union County College, Room N4, 1022 Springfield Avenue (Parking in Lot 1)
  - Elizabeth: Sampson Center, 800 Anna Street
  - New Providence: DeCorso Community Center, 15 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Plainfield: Union County College, Church Street, between 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets
  - Rahway: Rahway Recreation Center, 275 E. Milton Avenue, Room 112
  - Roselle: Amalfe Community Center, 1268 Shaffer Avenue
  - Union: Union Township Senior Center (relocated), 652 Rahway Avenue

A motion was made by Commissioner Kobitz to approve the Early Voting sites for the 2022 Elections. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harelik. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Varnerin was absent.

## II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Ms. DiRado provided the Board with updates to certain activities of the Board.

- Production of Virtual Poll Worker Video: Ms. DiRado advised the Board that the virtual poll worker training module will be updated for the Primary Election. A camera crew came to New Jersey to film the skits for the training video so it is more interactive. This was funded through a grant.



# UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

- Wrap-Up Meeting with the GE2021 Early Voting Super Poll Workers: Ms. DiRado advised the Board that a wrap-up meeting was held with the Early Voting Super Poll Workers last weekend. The meeting was a great exchange of new ideas going into 2022.
- Staff Meetings: The Board met with Michael Maranitz and Natalia Zaviysky to wrap up their meetings with the staff.

### III. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Foerst to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harelik. All Commissioners present Board voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Varnerin was absent. The meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.